

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO AMEMBASY TEL AVIF

AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAMANANIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANAA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6925

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGIERS IMMEDIATE

USINT TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0658

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SECTO 484

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A). XF, IS

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO CONVEY FOLLOWING:

A. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED YOU TO INFORM ----- PERSONALLY ON HIS BEHALF THAT HE IS ANNOUNCING THIS EVENING THE SUSPENSION OF HIS CURRENT MISSION WHILE HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT FORD AND THE CONGRESS ON THE PRESENT STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

B. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY, WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT FORD, HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO ASSIST THE PARTIES AT THEIR REQUEST TO ACHIEVE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT AS A FURTHER STEP TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE BELIEVED, AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS TOWARD AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

C. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS NOW COMPLETED TWO WEEKS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS IN THE AREA, DURING WHICH HE HAS MET A NUMBER OF TIMES WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND THE KEY MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI CABINET. THE IMMEDIATE FOCUS HAS BEEN ON ACHIEVING A FURTHER STEP TOWARD ADDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL AND PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THE SECRETARY HAS ALSO MET TWICE WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, HOWEVER, WHOM HE HAS ASSURED OF OUR CONVICTION THAT IT IS NEITHER OUR INTENTION NOR IN OUR INTEREST TO DIVIDE THE ARAB WORLD AND THAT A SETTLEMENT MUST INCLUDE ALL THE PARTIES TO THAT CONFLICT. THE SECRETARY HAS ALSO CONSULTED WITH KING HUSSEIN AND KING FAISAL.

D. IT HAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT BEEN POSSIBLE SO FAR TO RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD AN END OF BELLIGERENCY IN RETURN FOR SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER WITHDRAWAL AND EGYPT'S NEED TO RECOVER POSSESSION OF THE OIL FIELDS
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IN THE SINAI AND TO BRING ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI PASSES. PRESIDENT SADAT HAS DEMONSTRATED GREAT STATESMANSHIP IN SEEKING TO LEAD THE ARAB WORLD TOWARD AN HONORABLE PEACE, AND WE THEREFORE PARTICULARLY REGRET THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A FURTHER STEP AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT A PERIOD OF REASSESSMENT IS NEEDED SO THAT ALL CONCERNED CAN CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROCEED. WE WILL,

OURSELVES, BE REVIEWING THE QUESTION OF WHAT APPROACH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE MANY CHRGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE PRESENT PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND WE URGE OTHERS TO AVOID HASTY CONCLUSIONS AND TO JUDGE U.S. POLICY BY OUR ACTIONS AS THE SITUATION EVOLVES.

E. ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD, THE SECRETARY WANT TO ASSURE ----- OF OUR STRONG AND UNDIMINISHED DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO SEEK FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. IT IS OUR FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE DOOR FOR FURTHER PROGRESS MUST BE KEPT OPEN, AND IT IS OUR INTENTION TO DO SO AS WE CONSIDER WHAT APPROACH WILL NOW BEST SERVE THE CAUSE OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS REMAINS AN OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE OF AMERICAN POLICY.

2. FOR KUWAIT: YOU SHOULD EXPRESS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THIS TURN OF EVENTS HAS AGAIN FORCED HIM TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO KUWAIT. HE IS CERTAIN THAT THE RULER AND HIS MINISTERS WILL UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS RETURNING IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT WE CAN DO TO KEEP THE PEACE PROCESS GOING.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JERUSA00658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0630
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750325/aaaaawjq.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, XF, IS, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006